

My name is Nicole Bacile. I am an Enfield resident. I support House Bill 6517. **AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE TO ANALYZE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS GOVERNING DYSLEXIA INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING.**

Early identification is critical in the learning of students with dyslexia. The signs are quite easy to identify. My son was taught in a public preschool by a teacher with a Masters in Special Education. The irony was, my son's behavior was to represent a peer. What was missed was that he had dyslexia. The signs: he didn't write his name or any letters. He could not grip a crayon, he said it hurt his hand. When asked to write in a daily journal drawing pictures my son's journal was blank, while the other students filled them with pictures telling stories. His teacher promoted him to kindergarten. I thought if he matured, his skills would develop, he entered kindergarten at six. He had an above average IQ, but was still not able to write his name, or remember the alphabet or sight words. Those are all red flags. There were no interventions, or identifications because my son had good behavior, he was a role model student. In first grade, he said he couldn't read the words in the books. My son started to get migraines and stomachaches. By the end of second grade my son tested at a kindergarten reading level, but was promoted to third grade. There were no structured literacy programs to meet his needs. This concluded three years of no effective intervention.

In second grade, my son missed over ten days of school from January to March. When we looked closer we realized it was the same day each week. My son was eight years old and avoiding school because he had a music class that required him to read nursery rhymes from the black board. He was embarrassed he could not read it. Dyslexics cannot read nursery rhymes. When I confronted the situation, I was told it was not the teacher's duty to let the other teachers know my son could not read. Embarrassment, shame and anxiety were all created from this situation and lack of support. That summer, my son's reading list given by his teacher was primarily Dr. Seuss books.

Knowledge is powerful. Knowing what dyslexia is and what it is not, will give the children a fair start in their educational path. This public school experience created

anxiety, stress, and physical ailments. There were no solutions provided to meet his needs of learning differently. There was no structured literacy program offered.

By supporting Bill 6517, we can change the story for other kids who have dyslexia.